



Grapevine

Wreaths Across America

*Photo by
Neil Remnant*

Living at the Veterans Home of California in Yountville – December 21, 2007

Wreaths Across America

The GRAPEVINE
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For the second year the Veterans Home of California, Yountville participated in the “Wreaths Across America” program.

On Sunday, December 16th the ceremony began with the service at the Chapel and the wreath laying followed at the Veterans Home Cemetery.



“Our goal is to expand the recognition of those who serve our country, both past, present, and future, as well as their families who deserve our support. Without the sacrifices of our veterans, there would be no opportunity to enjoy the freedoms, the life we live today.” ... Morrill Worchester



left to right: Bart Buechner, Lynn Troff, Marcella McCormack, Gil Delmenico, Colleen Fay, Chaplain Kreiger, Arlene Kepplin



The “Wreaths Across America” began in 1992 at Arlington National Cemetery when Worchester Wreath Company began placing wreaths on the headstones – one man’s dream to honor Veterans with wreaths for the holidays.

Over the past 15 years civic-minded groups such as Civil Air Patrol and the Patriot Guard Riders have helped to expand the ceremonies. Thanks to their efforts and to the generosity of Morrill Worchester, President of Worchester Wreath Company, more than 75,000 wreaths have been placed at state and national cemeteries and veterans monuments across the United States.



Photos by Neil Remnant

Close to Home

*By Chris Williams
Photos by Neil Remnant,
Chris Williams, Lou Zauner*

The service organizations are generous and thoughtful to the residents here. We all appreciate their time and commitment.

Why, then, is the Residential Care Party special? Why do some call it “The Party of the Year”? Perhaps it’s because the people on the other side of the buffet tables are special to us. They are those employees who care for us every day, and there they are -- caring for us again.

How does it come together? Who do we thank? Dr. Alan Jensen passes the ball to Margie Patterson, Chief of Residential Care Service. “It starts at a staff meeting in November,” says Margie. “That’s when we plan the menu, form committees and make shopping lists. Then Lisa Accetolla from my office heads a cadre of shoppers.”

On the day of the party, everyone arrives early to decorate and prepare. The result: that unbeatable combination of feasting and hominess. The impromptu orchestra sounded as if they had rehearsed for weeks.

Continued on next page



December 21, 2007

Residential Care Holiday Party



The meatballs, wings, sandwiches, shrimp, cold cuts, punch, eggnog, coffee, cake, pies, cookies, and candy were great.





While residents decided it wasn't a day for counting calories, Santa arrived. He looked a bit thin. Stress of the season, probably.



Thank you to the Residential Care staff, their families and the many other staff members and volunteers who worked together to give us such a wonderful party.



❀ Paws with Brandy ❀

Behind the Scene, a Woman's Work is Never Done

I've heard people, seeing me lambling about the grounds, say, "Brandy sure has it easy. Nothing to do but stroll around and be petted." Mostly, men say that. Well, darlings, if they only knew! That's what's expected of us females, isn't it? Just keep smiling while we go on pegging away. Someone said the perfect woman is like a swimming duck, "calm and serene on the surface while paddling like hell underneath."

Have you noticed what men do when there's something they don't want to get involved in?

They volunteer us for it! I was just taken to meet Santa, and he said he was short a few elves. Yep! "Brandy will be happy to volunteer," my handler said. Well, let me tell you, honey; by the time I get these buns crammed into that elf suit, the holidays will be over.

And forget time off! If someone walks into our ward and I'm not there to greet them, it's, "Where's Brandy? Sleeping on the job?" Needing some sympathy, I went to see our Administrator. Why not? Everybody else does. A puddle of rain on the sidewalk? "I'll tell Marcella about that," someone says. A dish someone doesn't like in the dining hall, "Just wait until Marcella hears about this!" And, she keeps smiling through it all.

We have another thing in common. People don't realize I'm a therapy dog with responsibilities throughout the valley. I do fund raisers and write for animal-therapy newsletters. Didn't know about that, did you, dearies? You don't see it. Our Home is enjoying a period of increased funding for vital projects that are overdue for repair. Do you think that just happened? No, no. Karen Luke, our Director of Operations, says our Administrator engaged in "aggressive advocacy" to get that money for us. She's our "rock in Sacramento."

Sometimes, I think Colonel Holderman, who made our Vets Home the jewel it is, has returned. He's wearing a skirt now.



Yes, this IS the real Santa. That's what his ID says!



My hero Marcella with Gary Hemphill at the DAV Holiday Party - she always has time for a smile and kind words.

Special Employee Awards presented on December 5



Carla Herren, Staff Information System Analyst, was presented with the CDVA Veterans First Award for consistently demonstrating a commitment to excellence providing Meditech support for all of the Veterans Homes.



Laura Beaufiles, Chief, Hospital General Services Administration was presented with a CDVA commendation for her success toward increasing CDVA's Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises participation from an initial rate of 0.8% in July 2006 to 3.93% by the end of the fiscal year.

On December 4, 2007 the Memory Care Center (Annex I) had their first resident house meeting.

The residents selected a theme for the entire building and specific names for each unit.

The theme chosen for the building was a Western theme. The residents prefer that all staff call the units by their new names and not by the ward number.

The names selected for each unit are as follows:

| | |
|--------|--------------|
| Ward 0 | New Frontier |
| Ward 1 | Wild West |
| Ward 2 | Ponderosa |
| Ward 3 | Ok Corral |



Another Grand American Legion Christmas Party

By Lou Zauner; photos by Glen Nock, Lou Zauner

On Sunday, December 9, beginning at 1 p.m. the American Legion District 5 volunteers again provided their traditionally generous Christmas Party to the always-large gathering of Hospital Residents, Home Members, Staff and guests.



The pastry table provided an abundance of different varieties of cookies, along with numerous cakes and fudge treats which were all perfect with the added ice cream. And the traditional eggnog and punch bowls were also available. Christmas music and entertainment was provided by John “Squeaky” Bolner at piano with traditional song by Gennie Sarciapone.

For a tradition going back much further than any of the many volunteers could remember, they distributed the gift packs of candy and calendars plus more; and also presented gifts of home-knitted scarves and hats. Another generous offering was enveloped \$5 bills handed out by American Legion Volunteer Bernard Vasch.

Our sincere appreciation, once again, to the dedicated American Legion District 5 Members and Auxiliary that do so much for our Home. Many thanks and a Happy Holiday Season you all.

right - Doris Kilkenny, Pres. AL Aux. Dist. #5

below - Arlene Mendes, Marcella McCormack, Pat Anderson. These handmade lap robes and hats were given to the guests.



DAV Holiday Party

*By Lou Zauner;
photos by Glen Nock, Lou Zauner*

Ken Wingett, Adjutant of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 48, and Past State Commander for the DAV, can remember as far back as the 1970's coming to the Veterans Home for the annual Christmas Party. This year probably marks over 40 years for this event.

Over 20 DAV Members and Auxiliary volunteers hosted the Party for over 150 Hospital Residents, Home Members, Staff and guests in the Hospital Recreation Area on Saturday, December 15, beginning at 1 p.m.

A long line of cakes (chocolate, white and more) and a multitude of cookies with beverages of fruit juice and coffee provided the party treats while seven merry music-makers who call themselves "Dr. Elmo and the Reindeer Review" entertained the crowd.

Again, with special appreciation to Therapeutic Activities for their coordination of the event, our thanks go to the Disabled American Veterans for the many years of bringing their Christmas cheer to the Home.

*above - Auxiliary volunteers
Josephine Benner and
Delores Wingett*

*right - Santa Jerry Rambajan
is accompanied by "Dr. Elmo
& The Reindeer Review."*



Living at the Veterans Home of California in Yountville

Girl Scouts visit Veterans Home

On December 8th, many of the Girl Scout troops from Napa came to the Veteran's Home to spread a little holiday cheer. One such troop was troop 43 from St. John's Lutheran School in Napa. They prepared for the day by participating in a Christmas craft class put on by the Napa district. They made cards, ornaments, candy cane reindeer, and stockings. They also made ornaments in one of their meetings and were able to pass these out as they walked the halls singing Christmas carols.

Troop 43 is made up of 15 girls who are all in first grade. Their leaders are Nancy Dempsey and Sandy Butler. They have been meeting for almost a year and have been active in the community by participating in parades and they helped work to clean up the Yountville Creek.



Front row left to right: Regan Butler, Emily Heathcote, Grace Walter, Emily Kusel, Katya Kampton, Shannon Dempsey, Amanda Kling. The two leaders are Sandy Butler (red vest) and Nancy Dempsey (black jacket).



Send a Voice Mail to the Troops

Join artists like American Idol winner Jordin Sparks and leave a personalized voice mail to our deployed troops. It will only take you 2 minutes. Call 1-888-312-2612 (toll free) to send your message today. The troops can access your messages through the support of Armed Forces Entertainment. Visit Voices from America at <http://www.mozes.com/troops> to listen to other artists messages.

Napa Regional Dance Company presents another magnificent "Nutcracker"

By Lou Zauner



For past Holiday Seasons, the Napa Regional Dance Company (NRDC) has presented its artistic talent in the classical ballet, "The Nutcracker." This year, the Lincoln Theater hosted the 7th annual performance in three show times, two on Saturday December 15 and one on Sunday. Each performance was attended by a large audience from the Home and the community and included many children from kindergarten age (or younger) to early teens.

Executive Director of the NRDC, Wanda Martin McGill, has been teaching classical ballet and contemporary dance for over 25 years. Her students range from kindergarten age to adults. She and her professional staff provide dance education to hundreds of students each year and produces dance productions for colleges and the community. For this production of "The Nutcracker," Wanda stated that some 60 children and eight adults from the community participated. Rehearsals began in July to bring a perfected performance to audiences in December.

Our sincere appreciation and thanks for bringing another spectacular and delightful "Nutcracker" ballet to the Lincoln Theater and our Home.





Jeannie Schallenger as Miss Liberty



*Photos by
Glen Nock &
Lou Zauner*

Another Great Elks Dinner on December 7th



Novato Air Corps R.O.T.C.



January 2008 Programs at the Napa Valley Museum



Sat, Jan 12
7 to 9:30 pm

Roving Mars - Discoveries of the Mars Rover with Cliff De Lacy, Volunteer Solar System Ambassador for JPL/NASA. This indoor/outdoor program will feature the IMAX presentation Roving Mars with the Mars Rovers Spirit and Opportunity that includes discoveries made by the Mars Rovers in the last three years. Included will be an observing period with a Meade LX200 8" Schmidt-cassegrain telescope to observe the planet Mars. Warmly-dressed families or singles are welcome at this event. Free with admission. Call 707.944.0500 for reservations.



Sat, Jan 19
2 to 4 pm

Obsidian Obsession - Lecture and Demonstration with Clinton Hulse, The Heart & Art of Collecting Obsidian Artist. In addition to speaking about the construction of his arrows included in The Heart & Art of Collecting, Clinton will give a demonstration of obsidian carving. After learning how early inhabitants of the Napa Valley chipped their tools and arrowheads from obsidian, Clinton decided to create his own stylized arrows incorporating fly-tying techniques with his own arrowheads and memorabilia. Free with admission. Call 707.944.0500 for reservations.



Wed, Jan 23
9 am to 3 pm

Passport to the Arts Bus Trip to The Legion of Honor Marie-Antoinette and the Petit Trianon at Versailles Exhibition. The Napa Valley Museum transports you to another time and place with our Passport to the Arts Bus Trip to the Legion of Honor in San Francisco. The Petit Trianon was Marie-Antoinette's personal retreat at Versailles, and one of the few places where she could express herself and her taste. Through the decorative arts, paintings and sculpture that adorned the Petit Trianon, visitors glimpse the true style of the queen and see how it played a role in the history of France. \$48 for members, \$55 for non-members. Call 707.944.0500 for reservations and payment.



Sat, Jan 26
2 to 4 pm

A Conversation with Collectors with Bob Hornberger, Railroad Lamp & Lantern Collector and Jerry Berg, Juvenile Western Memorabilia Collector. Compared to the purchase of everyday objects, which are easily disposed of when obsolete, collecting implies passion and feeling for the objects themselves. Join this discussion about how and why we engage in collecting with two collectors whose prized possessions are included in our current exhibition, The Heart & Art of Collecting. Free with admission. Call 707.944.0500 for reservations.

LINCOLN Theater

Sat, Jan 19
7:00 pm

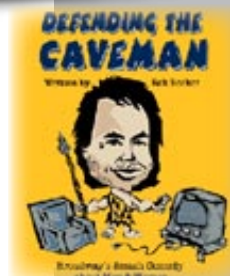
Eternal Vision Eternal Vision brings its energetic style of Southern Gospel music to Lincoln Theater for one night only. Audiences around the country are raving about this award-winning group. Experience their superb musicianship, harmonious vocals and inspirational message and you'll understand why they were named Southern Gospel Music Association's Excelling New Artists and won three Fan Favorite Awards in 2006.

Sat, Jan 26
8:00 pm

Defending The Caveman By popular demand this return engagement of Defending the Caveman brings the longest-running solo play in Broadway history back to Lincoln Theater. This brilliant comedy show has won the hearts of millions worldwide including here in the Napa Valley. With hilarious insights on feminism, masculinity and erogenous zones, it mines the common themes of relationships and nails the funny bone.

Sun, Jan 27
3:00 pm

Peter Rabbit and Friends Welcome to Beatrix Potter's world! Join the mischievous Peter Rabbit and friends Benjamin Bunny, Flopsy, Mopsy and Cottontail and a host of other characters as they bring to life four of Potter's classic tales: "The Tale of Peter Rabbit", "The Tailor of Gloucester", "The Tale of Benjamin Bunny" and "The Tale of the Flopsy Bunnies." Suitable for the kindergartners and up, this is an opportunity to spark a lifelong love of live performing arts!



2008 State Holiday Schedule

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| Tue, Jan 1 | New Year's Day |
| Mon, Jan 21 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day |
| Tue, Feb 12 | Lincoln's Birthday |
| Mon, Feb 18 | Washington's Birthday |
| Mon, Mar 31 | Cesar Chavez Day |
| Mon, May 26 | Memorial Day |
| Fri, Jul 4 | Independence Day |
| Mon, Sep 1 | Labor Day |
| Mon, Oct 13 | Columbus Day |
| Tue, Nov 11 | Veteran's Day |
| Thu, Nov 27 | Thanksgiving Day |
| Fri, Nov 28 | Day after Thanksgiving |
| Thu, Dec 25 | Christmas Day |

2008 Grapevine Deadlines and Distribution Dates

| Month | Deadline | Distribution |
|-------|-----------|--------------|
| Jan | 4, 17 | 10, 25 |
| Feb | 7, 22 | 1, 15, 29 |
| Mar | 7, 21 | 14, 28 |
| Apr | 4, 18 | 11, 25 |
| May | 2, 16, 30 | 9, 23 |
| Jun | 13, 25 | 6, 20 |
| Jul | 11, 25 | 3, 18 |
| Aug | 8, 22 | 1, 15, 29 |
| Sep | 5, 19 | 12, 26 |
| Oct | 3, 17, 31 | 10, 24 |
| Nov | 14, 26 | 7, 21 |
| Dec | 12, 23 | 5, 19 |

Residential Care Special Events

*Signup available 2 weeks before event. Sign up early! Activities can fill quickly.
All activities are subject to change due to bus and driver availability.*

December 2007

| Date | Time | Event | Bus | Site | Signup |
|--------|---------|--|-----|------|--------|
| 21 Fri | 5:45 pm | Christmas Lights Drive & Pie | MDR | | Yes |
| 22 Sat | 1:30 pm | San Ramon HS Choir | | HRA | |
| 31 Mon | 6:00 pm | New Years Eve Party – The last event in Grant Hall | | | |

January 2008

| | | | | | |
|--------|----------|--|--|-------|--|
| 1 Mon | | Happy New Year! (Holiday – offices closed) | | | |
| 8 Tue | 9:00 am | Ticket Tuesday | | Sec F | |
| 9 Wed | 9:00 am | Allied Council Meeting | | HRA | |
| 10 Thu | 10:00 am | Remembrance Service | | Chp | |
| 15 Tue | 9:00 am | Ticket Tuesday | | Sec F | |
| 22 Tue | 9:00 am | Ticket Tuesday | | Sec F | |
| 29 Tue | 9:00 am | Ticket Tuesday | | Sec F | |

Key – 1C/1D: Hospital 1C/1D patio; Bor: Borman Field; Chp: Chapel; GH: Grant Hall; GR: Games Room; HL: Hospital Lobby; HRA: Hospital Recreation Area; Lib: Lincoln Library, LL: Lee Lounge; LT: Lincoln Theater; MBS: Main Bus Stop; MDR: Main Dining Room; MPG: Main Picnic Grounds; SF: San Francisco; Tav: Tavern; VHC: Veterans Home Cemetery; VGC: Vintners Golf Course; VHL: Veterans Home Lanes; XI: Annex I; XII: Annex II; Ynt: Yountville; YVP: Yountville Veterans Park.

New Email Bank Scam

The FBI has become aware of a spam e-mail purporting to be from Amando M. Tetangco, the governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, (Central Bank of the Philippines). The e-mail claims the recipient is the beneficiary of a large sum of money, free of any liens or encumbrances, and asks the recipient to confirm the following information: First and last name; Direct phone, fax, and mobile numbers; Complete residential address; Occupation; and Age and sex.

The e-mail directs the recipient to send the information to Tetangco's personal e-mail address at mr_tetangco@mail.com. However, in the original message text, the e-mail is supposedly from amando@bsp.gov.ph, which is Amando Tetangco's actual e-mail address.

After providing this information, victims are asked for information about their bank accounts in order to receive a wire transfer or a certified bank draft. This e-mail is an attempt to retrieve personal data for fraudulent use. Do not respond!

As always, be cautious when responding to requests or special offers delivered through unsolicited e-mail:

- Guard your personal information as well as your account information carefully.
- Never give any personal, credit, or banking information in response to unsolicited e-mail.
- Be cautious when links are provided in an unsolicited e-mail. It is best to open your browser and type the legitimate or known website address into the address bar.

MOVIE NIGHT

The Wednesday night and Friday night movies have moved to the Hospital Recreation Area. We look forward to seeing movie-goers at these free showings on our new large screen at our new movie nights in the Hospital Recreation Area.

Fri, Dec 21 – “Evan Almighty”



New (2007) comedy stars Steve Carell and Morgan Freeman. “God” tells a junior congressman to build an ark and various animals begin arriving – two by two. Above average movie for all ages.

Wed, Dec 26 – “DIVA”



1982 very good French drama involving music loving mailman illegally taping a concert of superstar diva who’s never made a recording. Then tape mix up with a second tape that will incriminate gangsters.

☆☆☆

Fri, Dec 28 – “The Waitress”



New (2007) interesting drama involving small town waitress who deals with her problems by inventing new and fanciful pies. Cast—Keri Russell, Andrenne Shelly and Andy Griffith.

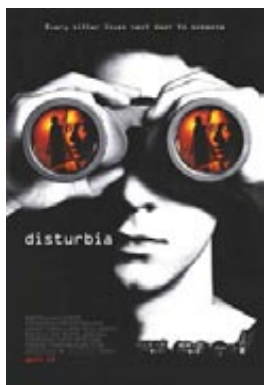
☆☆☆

Wed, Jan 2 – “War Games”



1983 drama about computer whiz-kid who taps into government early-warning system and nearly starts WW3. Cast—Matthew Broderick, John Wood, Ally Sheely and Dabney Coleman. Above average entertainment.

Fri, Jan 4 – “Disturbia”



New (2007) well made suspense movie. Troubled teen confined to home by electronic ankle bracelet and becomes obsessed by watching neighbors—including beautiful girl and suspicious man across the street. Invites comparisons to Hitchcock “Rear Window” above average entertainment.



Hosp. Rec. Area
Theater doors
open at 5:15 pm
Wednesdays &
Fridays

Special selected
presentations at
5:30 pm

Feature Film
begins at 6:00 pm

The Digital
Theater is
sponsored by the
Veterans
Remembrance
Committee,
The MW&R Fund
and AMVETS

Neil Remnant,
Movie
Coordinator



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404-VETS**